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4-30-03

Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
- Expedited Examining Procedure -
Examining Group 1724

5/1/03
BOX AF
81649SMR

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jeffrey L. Hall et al

APPARENTLY DRY WASTE
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Serial No. 09/705,542

Filed 03 November 2000

Do Not Enter

5/4/03
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Attorney Docket No. 81649SMR
Customer No. 01333
Examiner Ivars C. Cintins
Group Art Unit 1724

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the United States postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Mary Capperell
Name: Mary Capperell

Date: 5/14/03

5/14/03
APR 27 2003
TC 1724

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

This is in response to the Final Rejection dated January 15, 2003.

OK to Enter

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 1 as set forth below:

1. (Once Amended) A method of disposing of photographic silver halide processing solutions including developer solution, bleach solution and at least one silver bearing solution comprising a) combining only the developer and bleach solutions to oxidize the developing agent in the developer and form a developer/bleach waste solution, b) treating the silver bearing solution(s) to reduce the silver ion level and form a low silver waste solution; and c) contacting the developer/bleach waste solution and the low silver waste solution with an absorbent material to form an apparently dry waste material having a leachable silver ion level below 5 ppm.